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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

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Ms. Dianne Nielson, Director
Division of Oil Gas and Mining
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
355 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180

RE: Abandoned Kinetics Minerals Tailings
Pond at the State Line Mine

Dear Dianne:

About a year ago, Mack Croft from our bureau inspected the Kinetics Minerals (State Line) Mine after we received a copy of a letter written by the Utah Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding the dam. Kinetics Minerals received a construction permit from this office on September 16, 1983 for a tailings pond at this site north of Modena. At the time of the inspection, there was no activity at the site, and the mine and tailings pond were apparently abandoned. The tailings pond was fenced but the liner beneath the tailings was beginning to show some signs of deterioration. A letter was written to Kinetics Minerals but was returned by the Post Office.

Inquiries were made to former employees who reported that the tailings pond contained mostly ore treated with flotation agents. Some cyanide treated ore may have been disposed of before flotation agents were used. The company is now out of business and Howard Bovers, the former company President, has left the state and so has the former company's Vice President.

Wayne Thomas, a District Engineer with our Department at St. George, inspected the site after receiving several complaints. According to the analysis of a "grab" water sample he collected from the pond November 9, 1990, water contained:

<.02 mg/l Cyanide
<.002 mg/l Mercury
<.002 mg/l Cadmium
0.84 mg/l Lead

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The limit for lead in drinking water is 0.05 mg/l. Therefore, the water should be considered as potentially hazardous, particularly for small animals and birds. Wayne also reported to us the liner was beginning to deteriorate badly.

The site could be put on the CERCLA list for clean up but would score very low because of the location. The Bureau of Water Pollution Control is not provided funding for cleanup of sites of this nature.

From inquiries we have made, the BLM in Cedar City is not sure if the property on which the pond is located is on their land, or is on patented land which was recently sold at a sheriff's sale. Since the sample shows the site presents a potential hazard to small animals and birds, and to some degree, to surface or ground water, it appears to us the site should be reclaimed. It is unclear to us at this time who the appropriate lead agency should be, but reclamation of mine sites has normally been handled by DOGM and/or the BLM, and it would seem appropriate that either DOGM or the BLM should be able to resolve this matter. We are sending letters to both your agencies requesting your involvement.

If you have further questions, please call Mack Croft at 538-6146.

Sincerely,



Don A. Ostler, P.E., Director
Bureau of Water Pollution Control

DAO:MGC:mhf

cc: Wayne Thomas, Southwestern District Health Department
Joe Borgione, Water Rights, DNR

Q:KINETICS.LTR
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